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- FDIC— 4/18-4/21
- Fire Officer III starts 5/5
- Marine Corps Marathon Historic Half 5/20
- SEAFIC Conference Hampton, VA 6/13- 6/16

Fredericksburg Fire Department



An official publication from the City of Fredericksburg Fire Department

Recent Incidents...

"A" shift runs fire in Downtown Business



A-shift personnel begin the process of overhaul after knocking down fire in the business located at 702 Princess Anne Street.

On February 9, 2012 @ 00:29, Fredericksburg ECC alerted E-1, E-2, L-1, Battalion 1 and FRS #16 for a report of a structure fire in the 700 blk. of Princess Anne Street less than a block from Fire Station #1. Within minutes Battalion 1 (Bass) arrived to find heavy fire in possession of the 1st and 2nd floor rear of 702 Princess Anne Street. He quickly established command on side A after a walk around. E-1 (J. Skinner) arrived on side A and stretched their 1 1/2" attack line to the rear for fire attack. E-1 operator secured a water supply for both E-1 and the Falmouth engine. Falmouth E-1 arrived shortly thereafter and stretched their 1 3/4" attack line to the front and to the second floor. L-1 (Ash) arrived and took his two-man crew to the interior and proceeded with a search for any occupants—search was negative on all levels. E-2 (Dickinson) arrived on Charlotte Street and stretched a 1 1/2" attack line into the Baker exposure and extinguished fire that was extending from the original fire building.

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Incidents ...

(Continued from Pg. 1)

The crews on 702 Princess Anne were met with heavy heat and smoke conditions and made a very good push to extinguish all the fire. This was complicated by the amount and placement of storage items throughout the business.

Chief 1 (Allen) and Chief 2 (Jones) arrived on scene and helped with command and logistics. FM-1 (Sachs) arrived and began his investigation that determined combustibles were placed too close to a working space heater just inside the rear porch.

Units:

FFD - Engines 1 and 2, Ladder 1, Batt. 1, Chief 1, Chief 2, FRS #16 and #15, Stafford Co. E-1, Quint 12, Spotsylvania E-4 and SQ-4



Fire units operating at 702 Princess Anne Street light up the night skyline.

"A" Shift hits 2nd fire in a historic home

On March 11, 2012 @ 13:03 "A" shift personnel were again alerted for a structure fire at 614 Prince Edward Street, Fredericksburg quickly received additional calls reporting the building on fire at 701 Princess Anne Street. As units began to arrive, heavy fire possessed the porch area of the home and extended into the foyer on the David side. Engine 1 (Skinner) advanced a 1 1/2" attack line to Side Adam and secured water from a hydrant across the street. Engine 2 (McGovern) and his crew advance the "Detroit" load off Engine 1 as a second attack line. Falmouth E-1 arrived and secured water from a hydrant in the 300 blk. of Charlotte Street and advanced their 1 3/4" hose line to the front and to cover Side David.

Ladder 1 (Merryman) and his crew began a search of occupants as the large 3-story home had been converted into apartments with one on each level. After making sure all searches were negative, they began opening up walls and ceiling areas for the Engines.

The quick work by all Engine companies were able to knock down the porch fire and extinguish the interior fires fairly quickly. Much time was spent opening up 1st and 2nd floor walls and ceiling to extinguish fire as it extended via the channels between the wall studs.

Additional resources from both Stafford and Spotsylvania counties were called to assist due to the potential for exten-

sion throughout the structure, but the incident was scaled back after the fire extension was confined to the A/D corner of the structure.

Again extensive overhaul was required due to the fire, construction type and age of the home (originally built in the late 1800s). *(continued on pg. 3)* →



FFD Engine Companies call for water and mask up as they prepare to fight the blaze at 701 Prince Edward St.

Incidents ...

(Continued from Pg. 2)

Fire Marshal's investigation revealed the fire started on the front porch and extended into the structure, and the cause is still being determined.

Units:

FFD— Engines 1 & 2, Ladder 1, Batt. 1, Chief 1 and Chief 2, FRS #16, FRS #20

Stafford— Falmouth E-1, White Oak E-7, Safford Co. Medic 7

Spotsylvania— Engine and Squad 4



Engine 2-A crew gets ready to open up the porch roof during operations at 701 Prince Edward Street.

Hazardous Materials Team Participates in Exercise @ Quantico MCB

On March 14, 2012 @ 08:00, the Fire Department's Regional Hazardous Materials Team participated in a full scale exercise at the request of Quantico Marine Base officials. The scenario was a train derailment with active leak during normal business hours on the base.

The team deployed and quickly handled the leaks and decontamination of personnel and a simulated rescue. A critique was done immediately after the drill and our Team received high marks from both military and civilian officials that were evaluating the event.

Units:

FFD— HM-1, HM-2, HM-3 and 40 Ft. Trailer, Response 1, Command 1



HM-1 ready to deploy during Quantico full-scale haz mat exercise.

"B" shift crews make quick work of kitchen fire

On March 15, 2012 @ 17:53, crews were dispatched for a reported kitchen fire at 211 Morningside Drive off Lafayette Blvd. Units arrived to find heavy smoke showing from the Baker side of the home with the front windows glazed over.

Engine crews made quick work of this fire confining it to the kitchen and dining room area. Ladder crews conducted a search with negative results and opened up for the Engines. Battalion 1 (Sparks) had the command.





The Times they are a Changing

Article by: Deputy Chief Mike Jones

As the calendar year and seasons change, so has change come to the Fire Department. For several years now the leadership and members of the organization had been the same with all knowing their particular jobs and experience in those position. That has all changed since March of 2011. Since that time the Department has seen 5 people retire, 2 persons leave, 7 promotions made and 6 new personnel hired. Quite a change for an organization that has had very little turnover during the last 5 years.

It all started when Fire Marshal Harold "Jay" Babcock and Sergeant Jeff Moubray retired in March of 2011. Sergeant Parris Sachs of "A" shift was promoted to Fire Marshal to fill Jay's slot. Then a testing process was done for the positions of Sergeant, Lieutenant and Battalion Chief. When that process was complete, Fire/Medic II Calvin Balderson and Firefighter J.V. Skinner were promoted to Sergeant to fill the slots left vacant by Sachs promotion and Moubray's retirement. Naturally with personnel moving up from the firefighter ranks, new employees are hired to fill those positions. After a competitive process, Cameron John and Cody Rice were hired as Firefighter/EMTs.

Then in October 2011, Firefighter Richard Depathy of "A" shift retired after 10 years of service and Firefighter Rice of "C" shift resigned his position. Another round of testing was done and Bobby Hensel and Dustin Clay were hired in January 2012 to fill those slots, respectively. In the meantime Deputy Chief Mark Bledsoe announced his retirement effective February 1, 2012 and shortly thereafter Firefighter Jimmy Watters of "A" shift did the same. Meanwhile Firefighter William Biscoe of "A" shift also resigned in order to take over the operations of his family's business. With a hiring list already established, Justin Bullis and William Sanford were hired to fill Firefighter slots. A promotional process was done for Deputy Chief and Battalion Chief Mike Jones was tapped for the Deputy Chief position. That led to Lieutenant Brandon Bass being promoted to Battalion Chief, Sergeant Jack McGovern promoted to Lieutenant and Fire/Medic II Chris Corbin being promoted to Sergeant. These changes required additional personnel shifts to meet the needs of the department so several personnel changed shifts and assignments.

Naturally, with all the changes and the new arrivals, training at all levels of the Department has increased greatly to bring all newly promoted and new personnel up to speed on their assignment and duties. This also increases the activity and excitement level of our "veteran" personnel as they assist both new hires and their new officers in acclimating to new jobs and positions. Some even had "trial by fire" with several working incidents within their first days in the new positions.

With more and more personnel becoming "retirement eligible", it stands to reason that additional changes in the Department's lineup will occur sooner rather than later, stay tuned....



Pre-connected Hose Loads

Engine Company Operations

Photo and Article by: Sergeant Chris Madison

Ladder Company 1, A-shift

During the past year the crews on Engine 1 began evaluating various hose loads for better efficiency. Over the past twenty plus years we have used two 1-1/2" crosslays for our primary attack lines on residential structures. There were two lengths, 150' and 200'. Both lines were stowed with the nozzle in the middle allowing the lines to be pulled from either side. Over the years this has worked well for the department. You had two different hose lengths and they could be pulled from either side of the apparatus. The department and apparatus we respond in today have changed over the years and necessitated us exploring other options.

We received approval to load two minuteman's on E-1 for a trial period. Both lines are equal in length, 200 feet. Several questions were voiced as to the flexibility of this load. Can it be pulled from either side and can there be two different lengths? All shifts trained with the loads and feedback was generated. A general consensus was concluded. The minuteman is an easier and more efficient load to deploy. You have less hose on your shoulder leading to better control and comfort for the jump person. The nozzle is exposed making it easier to inspect when coming on shift. The backup line is equal in length to the primary.



The crews from Engine 2 loaded their trays the same and assisted with the process. While training we found that the line could be deployed from either side of the apparatus. In most scenarios this would not occur but it can be accomplished. As with any Department we have modified the loads to fit our needs in the City. The loads are packed as such;

Two lines are in place. Each line is packed so each side of the apparatus has a primary line to pull. On the Officer side the line is pulled from the upper speedload tray. On the driver side the line is pulled from the lower speedload tray. This was done to limit the obstructions for the pump operator. Another modification was to the dead load. It is a total of 100'. An ear was placed at the fifty foot mark. This allows the jump person to shoulder the 100' nozzle load.

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Pre-connected Hose Loads

Engine Company Operations

Photo and Article by: Sergeant Chris Madison

Ladder Company 1, A-shift

(continued from page 5)

They would then grab the dead load ear. Fifty feet will go with them and the other fifty feet would flake out the tray. Deploying this load proved to be more efficient and easier to deploy than the crosslay. Most of all you have better nozzle control while deploying the load.



Everyone involved with this process worked very well. All crews communicated and trained with deploying the line. Crews enjoyed getting out and exploring new ideas and making our job as efficient as possible. Most of all crews felt a sense of pride for their efforts.

A final recommendation was submitted asking to keep the minuteman loads on the Engines for our primary attack lines and this recommendation was approved. Thanks to everyone involved for making this process fun and educational!

COMING SOON!

The new Fire Department Hazardous Materials/ Incident Command vehicle is currently under construction at Farber Specialty Vehicles in Columbus, Ohio. It is scheduled to be complete by the third week in April. After being shown off at the FDIC conference in Indianapolis, it is scheduled to arrive here either the last week of April or first week of May.

Battalion Chiefs Sterne and Bass should make the trip to Columbus for a final inspection of our new rig within the next two weeks.





2012 Run Totals

January—March

Fires

Building Fires	17
Vehicle Fires	5
Trash/Rubbish Fires	9
Brush/Grass Fires	9

Haz-Mat Response

Gas Leaks (In and Out)	20
Team Responses	2

Rescues

MVA's	84
Water Rescues	4

False Alarms

Total	120
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EMS Responses

Transports	367
*Total	599

** EMS Responses only reflect career hours (Mon-Fri, 0530-1800)*

Unit Responses

Engine 1

337

Engine 2

335

Ladder/Tower 1

278

Battalion 1

204

Chief 1

2

Chief 2

4

Response 2

3

Medic 1

336

Medic 2

263



THE BACK PAGE

By

Deputy Chief Mike Jones

I hope you have enjoyed this revival of the "Side A" newsletter. I would be remiss if I did not give a great big tip of the helmet to Firefighter Donnie Wedding, L1-A for his efforts in making this publication what it has become. He basically took an idea and created it from scratch and did a wonderful job in writing, editing and publishing the previous editions. Having just done that for this issue, I can tell you it takes a lot of time and effort to make it happen. I hope he will consider being a contributor in the future.

One of the keys to any organization's success is its ability to communicate effectively both internally and externally. With my appointment as Deputy Chief, one of my many goals is to increase the effectiveness of our internal communication. The "Side A" newsletter is just one method our Department can use to keep all personnel informed of activities going on in and around stations and the city in general. One of the other ways many of us who have years of experience in the Department and the Fire Service in general can help with communication is to pass on the "lessons learned" from the many incidents we have handled over the years. In each call for service you run can be a little golden nugget that you can use as a teaching point for a probationary member, or slide or analogy for a training class or just to store away for recall during future emergencies. Don't overlook those experiences you can gain on EMS runs to check out building layouts or protection systems in place and their locations. All this can and should be communicated to all in the crews for it is one way we can all become better at our jobs.

While it may seem less than exciting, pay attention to what goes on around the City, especially if you interface with other city departments, what they do may impact our operations. Also what City Council does affects our daily operations in a myriad of ways from budgeting, staffing, operations and facilities. By knowing what is going on in your government allows you to better anticipate and plan for fire and EMS operations in the city.

Finally, keep improving your fire service knowledge base, many have said that the day you stop learning on this job is the day to retire—and that is true. I still find myself attending seminars, training courses or just listening to the newer personnel who can pass on tips or techniques that I am unfamiliar with or haven't heard about before. All shifts and divisions working and communicating with each other will make our job easier, more efficient and more rewarding.

Stay safe until next time...